

27th Eastern IFCA Meeting

"Eastern IFCA will lead, champion and manage a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries, by successfully securing the right balance between social, environmental and economic benefits to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry".



A meeting of the Eastern IFCA took place at The Boathouse Business Centre, Wisbech, Cambs, on 15th February 2017 at 1030 hours.

Members Present:

Cllr Tony Goldson	Chair	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Hilary Cox	Vice Chair	Norfolk County Council
Shane Bagley		MMO Appointee
Stephen Bolt		MMO Appointee
Roy Brewster		MMO Appointee
Cllr Peter Byatt		Suffolk County Council
John Davies		MMO Appointee
Emma Dixon-Lack		MMO Representative
Connor Donnelly		NE Representative
Cllr Richard Fairman		Lincolnshire County Council
Paul Garnett		MMO Appointee
Tom Pinborough		MMO Appointee
Keith Shaul		MMO Appointee
Rob Spray		MMO Appointee
Cllr Tony Turner MBE JP		Lincolnshire County Council
Stephen Worrall		MMO Appointee

Eastern IFCA (EIFCA) Officers Present:

Andrew Bakewell	Head of Finance
Jason Byrne	IFCO
Luke Godwin	Staff Officer
Julian Gregory	Chief Executive Officer (ACEO)
Ron Jessop	Senior Marine Science Officer
Stephen Thompson	Marine Science Officer
Pete Welby	Marine Science Officer

Other Bodies Represented

Sam Lew	WNNCEMS
Charlie Moffat	Natural England
Peter Holborn	Recreational Sea Angler

Minute Taker:

Jodi Hammond

EIFCA17/01 Item 1: Welcome by the Chair

The Chair opened the meeting at 1030 hours. Phil Haslam attended the meeting briefly to thank members for the opportunity to work with EIFCA and for allowing him the opportunity of the secondment with MMO from which he had not returned having been offered the position

on a permanent basis. He also thanked all officers for their support during his time with EIFCA.

EIFCA17/02 Item 2: Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from: Messrs Hirst (EA Representative), Morgan and Williamson (MMO Appointees) and Cllrs Baker (NCC) and Wilkinson (NCC).

EIFCA17/03 Item 3: Declarations of Members Interest

There were no additional Declarations of Interest, only those previously recorded.

EIFCA17/04 Item 4: Minutes of the 26th EIFCA Meeting, held on 2nd November 2016

With the exception of a typing error in minute number EIFCA16/81 where AIS was referred to which should have read VMS, the minutes were accepted as a true record.

Members Resolved to sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed: Mr Bagley

Seconded: Mr Worrall

All Agreed

EIFCA17/05 Item 5: Matters Arising

EIFCA16/63 MARINE PIONEER: members were advised that the Marine Pioneer Project was going ahead, the project was to be based in Suffolk with the MMO as the Lead Authority. EIFCA would still be engaged in the project.

EIFCA16/ REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS: The CEO advised that declarations of interest as required under the Localism Act was an ongoing process and would be brought back to the Authority for derogations to be authorised once completed.

EICA16/86 CROSS-WARRANTING: Member were advised the process was on track, by April there should be a new SI in place to replace the SI that was inadvertently revoked. This will provide IFCOs with the requisite enforcement powers.

EIFCA16/87 COMMUNITY VOICE PROJECT: Members were advised that all the workshops had been completed, all of which had been successful with good interactions. There would be a presentation on the outcome of these workshops at the Vessel demonstration day on 22nd March.

EIFCA17/06 Item 6: Health & Safety Risks

During the previous quarter three incidents had been reported, none of which had been serious. All of them had been dealt with and where necessary appropriate action taken.

Members were advised that the Sutton Bridge Moorings were now complete and no longer posed a 'Red' H&S risk for the Authority. There remained only one 'red risk' which was being dealt with.

Members Agreed to Note the report.

EIFCA17/07 Item 7: Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee Meeting held 25th January 2017

HR: The CEO advised members that the Head of HR had moved on to alternative employment and on her advice, it had been decided not to replace her, the function of HR would be taken on by the Head of Finance, with services outsourced if necessary.

In light of the news that the CEO on secondment was not returning the structure of the Authority had been revised slightly. The role of Deputy had been redefined to that of Head of Operations. Two roles had been slightly readapted to make best use of the skill sets available, so one IFCO had been renamed as IFCO Engineer and the Senior IFCO Marine had been retitled Senior Skipper which better reflected the amount of time spent at sea. A new Senior IFCO post has also been agreed to provide some resilience in the Marine Protection team.

It had also been decided to merge the Environment and Research Teams to form a Marine Science Team with all members of the team able to share the workload.

FINANCE: Members were advised that necessary vehicle replacements had been ordered, however the replacement RIB had not yet been ordered as confirmation of successful grant funding was being awaited before the order was placed.

Members Agreed to note the report.

EIFCA17/08 Item 8: Provisional budget for 2017/2018 and provisional forecast for 2018/2022

The paper provided an update of the provisional budget, using the most recently available figures. Meetings had taken place with the Finance Directors who had agreed to a standstill levy for 2017/2018 but they were aware an increase may be required in future years.

Members were made aware that during 2016/2017 savings had been made due to the CEO being on Secondment to the MMO along with other staff posts not being filled for the whole of the financial year. It was not anticipated that similar savings would be made in future years once the staff was back up to full complement.

The Head of Finance advised the projection for the next 5 years was very speculative but gave an indication of the direction in which the Authority were likely to go.

Members Resolved to approve the estimates of expenditure for the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 and to note the Provisional Forecast of Estimates of expenditure for the period 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2022.

Proposed: Mr Worrall

Seconded: Dr Bolt

All Agreed

EIFCA17/09 Item 9: Payments made and monies received during the period October 2016 to January 2017

Members were advised there was no exceptional expenditure during the period. Following a computer glitch the fuel rebate had now been received.

Cllr Byatt questioned the changing monthly payments for rent, rates & service charges and the high level of expenditure for FPV John Allen.

The Head of HR advised the rent was paid quarterly rather than monthly and the costs relating to FPV John Allen were as a result of remedial work carried out by the boat builders in Ireland, following an ingress of water into the engines.

Members Agreed to note the content of the report.

EIFCA17/10 Item 10: Quarterly Management Accounts

Members were advised that the accounts were in a better position than anticipated at this point in the year, however there were still unknown expenses such as the vessel refit which may make a difference.

Members Agreed to note the content of the report.

EIFCA17/11 Item 11: Crustacean Fisheries Management

MSO Welby gave a presentation on the results of a survey carried out into stock levels for crab and lobsters within the EIFCA District. Members were advised the fisheries which take place mainly along the North Norfolk Coast are pursued by mostly under 10m vessels and have a value of around £2.2m. The range of management measures already in place for these fisheries, such as MLS and prohibition of berried lobsters, were explained to members as were a range of potential new

measures such as closed areas, no-take zones, escape holes in pots and permitting schemes, which could be put in place to further protect the fisheries from being overfished. MSO Welby noted that whilst implementing some of these measures may mean a short-term loss to the industry he believed they would lead to long term gain.

Mr Davies expressed concern that the authority were not doing enough research on which to base decisions and assessments. MSO Welby advised that Best Available Evidence was being used as it was beyond the capacity of the authority to get any more evidence, however he did believe it had a use as an indicative tool.

Further concerns were expressed with regard to increased levels of fishing due to displacement by windfarms, and the lack of lobsters being a result of increased number of crab. It was also noted that most fishermen in the district voluntarily use escape holes so adding as a management measure would have no effect. It was noted that previously there had been discussion with regard to restrictions on gear and 'beach boat' only fisheries, both of which would alleviate concerns about vessels from outside the area pursuing the fishery using 1000's of pots.

The CEO advised there was a whole suite of options available for discussion with the industry not all of which would necessarily be applicable to the IFCA District.

Members Resolved to:

Note the contents of the paper

Agree in principle to the need for management measures for crustacean fisheries within the District.

Proposed: Mr Pinborough

Seconded: Mr Worrall

All Agreed

Direct Officers to develop proposed management measures for crustacean fisheries within the district.

Proposed: Mr Pinborough

Seconded: Mr Worrall

All Agreed

At this point the meeting members took a 15 minute break for lunch (1247 hrs)

EIFCA17/12 Item 12: Mussel Fishery 2017

The Senior Marine Science Officer provided members with a resume of the mussel surveys which had been conducted. It was noted that 17 areas had been surveyed, with 3 small beds not having been accessible

due to bad weather. The spatfall had been reasonable for not exceptional and two new areas of settlement had been identified which totalled 22 hectares. Changes on the Blackshore Bed suggested this bed was improving, whilst the seed was still quite small it was hoped this would grow well during the year.

Whilst there were positive signs, the Conservation Objective Target compared to actual stock had just been achieved, the adult stock was below target.

In contrast to the other mussel beds the Welland Bank was very different with mussel growing on rocks which were only accessible through a handwork fishery, the stock on this bed did not contribute to the SSSI Conservation Objective Target and it was recommended this bed remain open.

Members Resolved to:

Note the results of the 2016 autumn surveys

Note that whilst the Conservation Objective target for Total Stock has been narrowly achieved, the majority of beds are in poor condition.

Note that while natural mortalities have been lower this year than recently, the stocks are still considered to be highly vulnerable to future losses.

Note that due to the differences in the dynamics of the mussel populations growing on the Welland Bank, those stocks are not included in this management, but are subject to their own individual management.

Agree that due to the current poor condition of the beds and their vulnerability to further losses, neither a harvestable fishery or a seed mussel relaying fishery could be opened without have an adverse impact on the sustainability of the stocks and favourable SSSI condition of the site.

Proposed: Dr Bolt

Seconded: Mr Donnelly

All Agreed

EIFCA17/13 Item 13: Mussel Regeneration Project 2014-2016

The Senior Marine Science Officer gave a presentation of the steps which had previously been taken to attempt to promote the mussel fishery. Since 2014 the feasibility of cockle shell as culch to attract seed had been tested. First attempts had not been very successful as the shell had rapidly buried, however it had still attracted fifteen times more mussel compared to the control site. Subsequent years had been more

successful which proved the concept was effective. Unfortunately, the cost of putting enough shell out to make a difference to the public beds was prohibitive. It was however, felt that if lay holders had access to shell it may prove effective on lays, or for very small public areas in need of regeneration.

It was Resolved to:

Note that with support from the fishing industry, the Authority conducted a research project between 2014 and 2016 to explore the feasibility of using a culch of cockle shells to regenerate the inter-tidal mussel beds.

Note that the results from the study show the shells do facilitate the settlement of mussel seed in densities comparable to those found on natural mussel beds.

Note that the quantity of shells required would be prohibitive for large-scale regeneration projects, but could be used for smaller-scale regeneration projects on the Regulated beds or by fishermen to attract seed onto their lays.

Agree a letter should be sent to all Lay holders, detailing the results of the study and its potential for them to use as a method of attracting mussel seed onto their lays.

Proposed: Mr Davies

Seconded: Mr Worrall

All Agreed

EIFCA17/14 Item 14: WFO 1992 Cockle Fishery Management

The CEO provided members with a presentation which explained the need for the WFO 1992 to be significantly reviewed and revised, the overall aim being to ensure the long-term approach to the management of the fisheries was 'business as usual'.

Following this presentation there were four items for discussion by members.

At this point Cllr Turner left the meeting

EIFCA17/14a Item 14a – WFO 1992 Licence Fees

The CEO advised members that the current licence fees were low and provided negligible cost recovery for the Authority. The licence fee structure had been set in 1992 when ESFJC were only able to receive costs to improve cultivation within the fisheries. Since MaCAA 2009 the guidelines had changed which meant the Authority could now recover costs incurred for regulation. With greater scrutiny being placed on public finance since 2008, and the subsequent budget reduction to the Authority of 25%, the CEO suggested that the time was right to explore

ways to recoup some of the costs incurred in managing the wash fisheries.

WFO licence tolls were last reviewed in 2012, at that time the Authority had agreed not to recoup costs for regulation, at that time the fees were set for 5yrs with an annual increase to reflect inflation.

Members were advised of the cost levels for licences, the total amount received and how this compared to the costs incurred by the Authority, as well as the value of the fishery. It was believed there were 4 options available which would be 1) keep the status quo, 2) merge administration and propagation costs so the full licence fee was returned to the Authority and not set aside for cultivation projects, 3) instigate fixed licence costs which would either recoup 100%, 75% or 50% of the costs involved. It was noted that based on 62 vessels fishing to achieve 100% costs recovery would mean a licence increase from the current £330 to £2,750, or 4) Fixed licence fees with an additional variable licence cost which would be linked to the quantity of cockle landed by each vessel.

Mr Brewster questioned whether cost recovery would also be applied to other fisheries within the district. He also questioned whether additional funds were being provided by the MMO and other bodies who were requesting additional work, he believed prior to the additional work streams there had been sufficient funding so he was concerned that the WFO licence holders were being targeted for additional funding. He was particularly concerned about the effect leaving the EU would have on sales, he believed asking for a decision now was too soon.

At this point Cllr Byatt left the meeting

There followed discussion on the administration of Thames fishery licences compared to the Wash fisheries. It was noted there was a significant difference in the costs involved to manage the Thames fishery compared to the value of that fishery.

It was also advised by members that other fisheries such as rod and line fishermen do pay for licences but they were issued by the MMO/EA etc, as well as the cost of the cockle fishery being largely due to the level of stock assessment involved.

There followed extensive debate in to the proposed options and the level of cost increase proposed, however, it was also noted that any agreement at this time would still be subject to consultation and ultimately it would need to be signed off by the Minister.

Having considered the recommendations provided an amendment was put forward which resulted in members Resolving to:

Note the content of the paper

Agree to 50% cost recovery over a 3 year period, commencing in April 2018.

Proposed: Mr Shaul

Seconded: Mr Pinborough

Direct officers to take steps to implement the above to include engagement with licence holders where appropriate and seeking Ministerial consent.

Proposed: Mr Donnelly

Seconded: Mr Pinborough

All Agreed

EIFCA17/14b Development of WFO 1992 cockle Management plan and Long-term HRA

The proposal was for members to consider the implementation of a 25 year HRA to bring the cockle fishery in line with other fisheries. With the conditions of the HRA being met through a Monitoring & Control Plan. The Senior Marine Science Officer provided members with a detailed presentation which included how the HRA would be based on the 2008 cockle management measures, the code of best practice and the cockle charter. It was also noted that the proposed HRA would include adaptive measures for dealing with large-scale cockle mortality, including flexible daily quotas.

The proposal was for a management plan for a default hand-worked fishery with a dredge fishery only being retained as a contingency plan in exceptional circumstances.

Members discussed in detail elements of the proposal and queried what checks and balances would be put in place as well as daily quota levels in the event of 'die off'. There was also debate about additional measures being put in place such as iVMS, no steaming permitted prior to water levels having risen sufficiently, spreading out unharvested cockles following prop-washing, and the CEO being delegated power to open or close the fishery.

Members Resolved to:

Note the content of the paper

Note that the long-term (25 years) Habitats Regulation Assessment and the draft Cockle Management Plan have been submitted to Natural England for informal advice.

Agree in principle to the proposed approach to managing the cockle fishery

Proposed: Mr Worrall

Seconded: Dr Bolt

All Agreed

Direct officers to consult WFO 1992 licence (entitlement) holders on the proposed Management Plan

**Proposed: Mr Spray
Seconded: Mr Worrall
All Agreed**

Delegate authority to the CEO to develop the plan and to submit to Natural England together with the long-term (25 years) Habitats Regulations Assessment for formal consultation.

**Proposed: Mr Spray
Seconded: Cllr Fairman
All Agreed**

I

EIFCA17/14c Item 14c: WFO 1992 Regulations

The purpose of the report was to make members aware that the current set of regulations attached to the WFO 1992 were quite old and convoluted, and as such needed to be updated and reformatted to reflect modern legislative standards, as well as being clear, transparent and easily understood.

Members were made aware of proposed amendments and inclusions to the regulations, including the use of iVMS, standard bags, weekly catch returns etc.

Members Resolved to:

Note the content of the paper

Note the rationale for the proposed Regulations and associated impact Assessment in Appendix 2

Agree to make the proposed Regulations in Appendix 1

**Proposed: Mr Worrall
Seconded: Mr Donnelly
All Agreed**

Direct Officers to undertake a formal consultation with licence entitlement holders in relation to the proposed Regulations.

**Proposed: Dr Bolt
Seconded: Mr Pinborough
All Agreed**

EIFCA17/14d Item 14d: WFO 1992 Management Policy

Members were made aware that the policy needed to be reviewed and contradictions needed to be removed, there were also some amendments to the regulations which had never been put in place.

Industry members queried whether current practices of handing licence entitlements down to family members would still be permitted, and whether a licence would still be cancelled if a vessel was sold. The Staff Officer advised the recommendation was that the Authority would still have the discretion to discuss these matters, unfortunately the review had highlighted more problems than had been anticipated.

Members Resolved to:

Note the content of the paper

Agree to the changes to policy notes as set out in Appendix 1

Proposed: Mr Spray

Seconded: Mr Worrall

All Agreed

Agree to implement interim policies as set out in Appendix 2

Proposed: Dr Bolt

Seconded: Mr Worrall

All Agreed

Direct Officers to undertake further review and revision of the policy notes, including consultation with licence holders.

Proposed: Mr Donnelly

Seconded: Mr Worrall

All Agreed

EIFCA17/15 Item 15: Cockle Fishery 2017-18 management arrangements

Members were asked for their approval to delegate powers to the CEO, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-chair of the Authority, to determine management measures and to open the 2017-18 cockle fishery prior to the June 2017 full Authority meeting should it be necessary to do so.

Members Resolved to;

Note the content of the report

Delegate authority to the CEO to set management measures and to open the 2017-18 WFO 1992 cockle fishery in accordance with existing policy and practices.

Proposed: Dr Bolt

Seconded: Cllr Fairman

All Agreed

Agree that the licence conditions set out at Appendix A would apply to the 2017-18 cockle fishery

Proposed: Cllr Fairman

Seconded: Mr Worrall

The motion was carried with one abstention

EIFCA17/16 Item 16: Revision of WFO licence tolls in line with inflation for the 2017-2018 financial year

Members Resolved there would be no increase in WFO 1992 licence tolls for 2017/2018, the fee would remain at £330/licence.

Proposed: Dr Bolt

Seconded: Mr Pinborough

All Agreed

EIFCA17/17 Item17: Meeting of the Regulation and Compliance sub-committee – 13 December 2016

The report provided members with an update of the matters discussed at the Sub-Committee meeting. The CEO advised members that the byelaws in question would go out for consultation as soon as workloads permitted.

Mr Donnelly advised members there were still some quite significant outstanding issues for NE to consider regarding the closed areas being suggested as well as some of the calculations used to assess effort.

Members Agreed to note the content of the report.

EIFCA17/18 Item 18: Bass Management Measures

This item was moved up the agenda and dealt with following item EIFCA17/10 Item 10: Quarterly Management Accounts. This was to cater for the fact that several members of the public had attended the meeting specifically for this item and it was anticipated that other agenda items would be time consuming.

Prior to members discussing this matter a member of the public, Mr Peter Holborn, was given a short period to put forward his view point on the management of the bass fishery. Mr Holborn introduced himself as a recreational sea angler and said that the previous summer he had, together with other recreational sea anglers, been part of meetings with the EA, Defra, MMO, KEIFCA and EIFCA officers. The purpose had been to identify the threats to the bass stocks in advance of the EU Fisheries Council meeting in December. The EU had ultimately made the decision to protect spawning and pre-spawning bass stocks. However, there was concern that along the EIFCA district the bass spawn later than other areas so the moratorium in relation to commercial hook and line fishing which ends in April would not protect the spawning stocks along the coast of Eastern IFCA. Therefore, he believed there needed to be an Emergency Byelaw to extend the moratorium period beyond April. He also advocated tightening the other management measures relating to bycatch for fixed nets and demersal trawls and seines, prior to the fishery commencing in 2017. Mr Holborn also said that he felt that the matter was so important that it should come

back to the full Authority for a decision as opposed to decision making being delegated as recommended.

The CEO then reminded members that in the past investigations had been made into the possibility of bringing in regulation but as it did not meet the criteria for an Emergency Byelaw such a decision could be open to a judicial review. It had also been previously decided that bass management by EIFCA was not a high priority on the basis that management measures were in place at EU level and that landings in the district only amounted to 2% of the overall UK catch. This was in the context that EIFCA had a very high work load and as such had to prioritise what work was undertaken.

The CEO then gave a presentation in which he identified that the latest ICES advice was that Bass stocks were severely depleted; that EU management measures had become progressively more restrictive since 2015; that EIFCA had considered the matter annually since 2014 but had concluded that no additional action was required as the EU/national approach had taken primacy; that EU measures for 2017 were restrictive but did not appear to take account of later spawning for bass in the southern North Sea; that new evidence indicated that bass in spawning condition were present in the district during April, May and June as well as earlier in the year; that as a consequence, short-term action in the form of an Emergency Byelaw may be appropriate.

The CEO identified that when considering the introduction of regulation, the Authority was required to consider the necessity of such action, whether it was lawful and whether it was proportionate. He advised that the stated objective of the EU measures to protect spawning aggregations combined with the evidence relating to later spawning in the southern North Sea indicated that it may be necessary. Verbal legal advice indicated that extending the moratorium for commercial hook and line fishing would be lawful but tightening other EU measures would not. The issue of proportionality would be addressed following informal consultation and the preparation of an impact assessment. The proposal was, therefore, to consider an Emergency Byelaw to increase the duration of the moratorium for commercial targeting of bass using hook and line to include April, May and June 2017. Agreement in principle was sought pending informal consultation and the preparation of an impact assessment.

The CEO concluded his presentation by advising members of correspondence received from the Angling Trust. This had identified the relevant issues in relation to bass, which and been covered in the CEO's presentation and asked for members to be reminded of the duties of the Authority, stating that they had a legal obligation to protect bass stocks. The CEO then set out the full duties of the Authority as set out in section 153, Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

Members then discussed the EU management measures for bass in detail. Some expressed concern that the exemptions that allowed a bycatch of 250kg for fixed nets and 400kg for demersal trawls and seines represented commercially viable fisheries and would introduce enforcement difficulties. Some expressed the view that measures that went beyond the proposed extension of the moratorium for hook and line should be introduced. Mr Pinborough suggested that the 250kg allowance was a threat to the fishery and Mr Byatt felt that the Authority should be aware of its conservation responsibilities as well as its duty to the industry. Mr Spray said that the wording of the EU measures provided an incentive to target bass when it is intended as unavoidable bycatch only and that this could be fixed through an emergency byelaw. He also enquired whether measures such as a permit scheme might be possible under an Emergency Byelaw. Members also expressed concern that the bycatch was expressed as a weight rather than a percentage and had serious loopholes which could be exploited.

Mr Davies and Mr Shaul observed that there were no commercial bass fishers from Suffolk present to put the alternative case and expressed concern that some views were not taking account of the importance of the fixed net and commercial trawl fishery in supporting local industries, and the need for inshore fishermen to have the flexibility to catch whatever comes into the area.

The ability to enforce any new legislation was also considered as was including bass management in the Business Plan, if the Strategic Assessment indicated that it should be a priority. Discussions included alternative management measures such as permitting schemes, a maximum landing size rather than minimum, and a maximum time for nets to be in the sea. Mr Shaul expressed concern that the Authority was being unduly influenced by representations from the recreational sea angling sector.

The CEO reassured Mr Shaul that extensive lobbying from any sector would not have any undue influence but that officers would assess what was said to extract relevant information or evidence. He then explained that legal advice indicated that the only possible measure that could be introduced via an Emergency Byelaw was an extension to the moratorium on commercial hook and line fishing. He also reminded members that it was incumbent upon them to consider the issue objectively and that an Emergency Byelaw could only be pursued following informal consultation, an impact assessment and due consideration of the proportionality of introducing regulation.

Mr Pinborough said that he was not viewing the matter from a recreational anglers' perspective but in terms of Bass stocks and pressed for measures to address the bycatch exemptions in the EU regulations to be included as well as the extension of the hook and line moratorium. He said that Eastern was the only IFCA district in which bass spawned and he questioned the legal advice given to officers and

asked to see it in writing. Mr Pinborough advised that he had researched commercial fishing netting practices.

The CEO responded to the point on being the only IFCA district in which bass spawned saying that it was very unlikely to be the case. Mr Pinborough said that he had researched commercial fishing and that there was evidence to show this. The CEO said that it was a sweeping statement and one which should be treated with caution.

Mr Pinborough asked that instead of the decision on implementing a byelaw being delegated to the Chair, Vice-Chair and CEO, as set out in the recommendations, the matter be brought back to the full Authority for decision. He asked for an amended proposal to be made to this effect and this was supported by several members, including the commercial fishers present who felt that there should be an opportunity for those who would be affected to be present.

Members were given a 5-minute break whilst the wording for the amendment was considered. The amendment was then put to the vote with 5 votes being in favour and 5 against. The Chair cast his deciding vote, which was against the amendment so it was not carried and the original proposals were put forward.

Members Resolved to:

Note the content of the report.

Agree in principle to the introduction of an emergency byelaw to extend the moratorium on fishing for bass using hook and line to include April, May and June 2017, subject to completion of work to support it including informal consultation and an impact assessment.

Proposed: Cllr Cox

Seconded: Mr Donnelly

With 10 votes in favour and 3 against the motion was carried.

Delegate authority to the CEO, in consultation with the Chair & Vice Chair, to take the decision whether or not to make an emergency byelaw to extend the prohibition on targeting bass by hook and line to include the calendar months of April, May and June 2017

Proposed: Cllr Cox

Seconded: Cllr Turner

With 11 votes in favour and 1 against the motion was carried.

Prior to item 20 Cllr Cox and Mr Davies left the meeting

EIFCA17/19 Item 19: Resolution

It was Resolved that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for

item 20 on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Proposed: Dr Bolt

Seconded: Mr Worrall

All Agreed

EIFCA17/20 Item 20: Consideration of applications for WFO licences

Summary in accordance with Section 100(C)(2) of the Local Government Act 1972

Members were provided with two applications relating to WFO licence entitlements

The first was for a fathers' vessel to be registered on the sons entitlement, as it was their intention to change the ownership, as the vessel had previously been on this entitlement the policy would not normally allow it, however as this was a switch between father and son the Officers recommendation was that an exception should be made in this instance.

The second request was for the licence entitlement to be sold with the vessel which would enable the purchaser of the vessel to circumvent the WFO Entitlement waiting list. Legal advice had been sort on this matter with regard to the wording of the WFO and it was felt the current Entitlement holder could reasonably expect the Authority to pass on the Entitlement. However, not only would this leave the Authority open to legal challenge from those people on the waiting list it was also in contravention of the moratorium which had been put on the re-issuing of Entitlements.

Members discussed in detail the matter however having listened to the debate the Chairman felt it was too controversial to make a decision at this time as due to the length of the meeting some of the members able to vote had left.

Members Resolved to:

Note the assessment of the two applications

Agree to grant the application to swap the fathers vessel to the sons entitlement and to delegate responsibility to the CEO to grant the licences pending the production of the required evidence of a change in vessel ownership.

Proposed: Mr Spray

Seconded: Cllr Fairman

All Agreed

Note the Chairman's instruction to defer any decision with regard to the request to allow a WFO Entitlement to be reissued to the

purchaser of a vessel until an Extraordinary meeting of the full authority could be convened.

EIFCA17/21 Item 21: Quarterly progress against annual Priorities

Members Agreed to note the report

EIFCA17/22 Item 22: Marine Protection Quarterly Reports

Members Agreed to note the report

EIFCA17/23 Item 23: Marine Environment Quarterly Reports

Members Agreed to note the report.

EIFCA17/24 Item 24: Update of HR Activity

Members Agreed to note the report.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 1600 hours.